

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111828
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 H-01 PA-01 COME-00
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY L/ARA:TFORTUNE:JV
APPROVED BY L/ARA:T.FORTUNE
ARA/PAN - D. WAGNER
EB - D. GRANT

-----003717 030515Z /21

R 022110Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, PN

SUBJECT: EXPROPRIATION - CITRICOS DE CHIRIQUI, S.A.

REF: FORTUNE/PANOS TELECON OF APRIL 25

1. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, MEETING BETWEEN CITRICOS COUNSEL AND MINISTER BARLETTA, SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 27, WAS CANCELLED BY PANAMA ON VERY SHORT NOTICE, AND TENTATIVELY RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 5. COUNSEL WERE ANNOYED AT MANNER IN WHICH MEETING WAS CANCELLED AND SKEPTICAL CONCERNING GOP'S DESIRE TO CONDUCT GOOD-FAITH NEGOTIATIONS.
2. DEPARTMENT, IN REF TELCON, REQUESTED EMBASSY TO URGE THAT GOP CONFIRM MAY 5 MEETING AND DESIGNATE TIME AND PLACE FOR MEETING. CITRICOS COUNSEL HAS YET TO HEAR FROM GOP.

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PAGE 02 STATE 111828

3. DURING SENATE DEBATE ON TREATIES, DEPARTMENT ASSURED SEVERAL INTERESTED SENATORS THAT GOP WAS ENGAGED IN GOOD-FAITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH CITRICOS. FAILURE OF GOP TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS NOW THAT TREATIES HAVE BEEN APPROVED WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION GOOD FAITH OF GOP AND DEPARTMENT AND COULD CREATE PROBLEMS RE: IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION.

4. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO TAKE ALL STEPS DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO FACILITATE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS EITHER ON MAY 5 OR AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. IMPORTANT POINT IS TO SECURE FIRM DATE FOR MEETING AND AVOID PANAMANIAN REACTION WHICH APPEARS EVASIVE OR DILATORY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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